



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 89

January Session, 2009

Senate Bill No. 872

Senate, March 16, 2009

The Committee on Human Services reported through SEN. DOYLE of the 9th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT PROVIDING STATE-FUNDED MEDICAL COVERAGE TO CHILDREN IN THE CARE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (h) of section 17b-261 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2009*):

4 (h) Medical assistance shall be provided, in accordance with the
5 provisions of subsection (e) of section 17a-6, to any child under the
6 supervision of the Commissioner of Children and Families who is not
7 receiving Medicaid benefits, has not yet qualified for Medicaid benefits
8 or is otherwise ineligible for such benefits. [because of institutional
9 status.] Medical assistance shall also be provided to any child in the
10 voluntary services program operated by the Department of
11 Developmental Services who is not receiving Medicaid benefits, has
12 not yet qualified for Medicaid benefits or is otherwise ineligible for
13 benefits. To the extent practicable, the Commissioner of Children and

- 14 Families and the Commissioner of Developmental Services shall apply
15 for, or assist such child in qualifying for, the Medicaid program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	17b-261(h)
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HS *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

This bill clarifies the Department of Social Service's authority to provide state funded medical coverage for certain children under the direction of the Department of Developmental Services. As this bill clarifies a current practice of the agency, there is no fiscal impact.

The Out Years***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

Source: Public Hearing Testimony 2/17

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 872*****AN ACT PROVIDING STATE-FUNDED MEDICAL COVERAGE TO CHILDREN IN THE CARE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill expands eligibility for state-funded medical assistance to include (1) more children under the Department of Children and Families (DCF) commissioner's supervision and (2) children under the Department of Developmental Services' (DDS) voluntary services program who (a) are not receiving Medicaid, (b) have not yet qualified for Medicaid, or (c) are ineligible for Medicaid.

By law, the DCF commissioner must ensure that all children under her supervision have adequate medical, dental, psychiatric, psychological, and social services. State-funded medical assistance is currently provided, in accordance with this mandate, to children under the care of DCF who (1) are not receiving Medicaid, (2) have not yet qualified for Medicaid, or (3) are ineligible for Medicaid because of institutional status. For children who are ineligible for Medicaid the bill removes the requirement that the child be in an institution.

Finally, the bill requires the DDS commissioner, to the extent practicable, to apply on behalf of a child, or help a child in the program qualify for, Medicaid. Current law requires the DCF commissioner to do this on behalf of children under her supervision.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2009

BACKGROUND***State-Funded Medical Assistance***

Under current practice, DSS runs a state-funded medical assistance

program for children under DCF supervision through a cooperative arrangement with DCF. This includes those children who are (1) incarcerated or residing in detention facilities, (2) undocumented non-citizens, (3) in the voluntary services program being placed in residential treatment facilities, and (4) for whom DSS has not determined Medicaid eligibility. Federal law prohibits states from granting Medicaid to individuals in correctional institutions.

State medical assistance is used to provide bridge coverage to children in the voluntary services program who are placed in residential treatment for the initial one-month period when the parent's income is still counted in determining the child's Medicaid eligibility. It may also be used to provide coverage to children placed in out-of-state treatment facilities who may not be eligible for Medicaid. There are approximately 20 children per month in this coverage group.

The voluntary services program was operated solely by DCF until 2005 when DCF signed an interagency agreement with DDS to transition children with a dual mental health and mental retardation diagnosis served in the program to DDS. DDS also serves new children with this dual diagnosis who apply to the program.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 18 Nay 0 (02/26/2009)